

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /068 W

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R 130707Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4211

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1481

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SO, UR, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON SIAD'S NON-ALIGNMENT

REF: MOGADISCIO 1466

1. THE CHARGE MET WITH BELGIAN AMBASSADOR EDGARDUS VERHILLE (RESIDENT AT DAR ES SALAAM) ON SEPTEMBER 12, A FEW MINUTES BEFORE VERHILLE BOARDED A FLIGHT OUT OF MOGADISCIO. DISCUSSING HIS BRIEF VISIT HERE, VERHILLE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT PRESIDENT SIAD'S CITATION OF THE "TRIPLE TENETS OF NON-ALIGNMENT, PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP FOR ALL", WHEN ACCEPTING VERHILLE'S CREDENTIALS, WAS NOT MERELY RHETORICAL AND COULD PRESAGE SOME REDRESSING OF THE GSDR'S HEAVY RELIANCE ON THE SOVIET UNION. HE SAID THE SOMALI AMBASSADOR AT BRUSSELS RECENTLY CONVEYED THE SAME MESSAGE TO THE GOB.

2. VERHILLE ALSO SAID THAT SIAD LOOKED FIT AND WAS IN GOOD SPIRITS DURING THEIR MEETINGS. (SIAD APPARENTLY WAS SERIOUSLY INDISPOSED IN AUGUST AND ONLY RECENTLY BEGAN TO RECEIVE VISITORS AGAIN ON A REGULAR BASIS.)

3. COMMZNT: THE GSDR'S ATTACHMENT TO SCIENTIFIC
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SOCIALISM AND THE SOVIET UNION HAS NOT PREVENTED THE

GSDR FROM MAINTAINING GOOD WORKING RELATIONS WITH THE EEC AND INDIVIDUAL WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, SUCH AS ITALY AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, WHICH ARE PROVIDING GENEROUS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. THIS IS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO ITS HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE U.S. WE ARE INCLINED TO SUBSCRIBE SIAD'S RELATIVE EXPANSIVENESS WITH REGARD TO THIS LONG-STANDING CONNECTION WITH THE EEC AND NOT TO A SYSTEMATIC REAPPRAISAL OF GSDR FOREIGN POLICY, EVEN THOUGH INDIVIDUAL SOMALI, AND PERHAPS SIAD HIMSELF, ARE SENSITIVE TO ARAB AND AFRICAN CRITICISM OF THEIR EXTREME RELIANCE ON THE SOVIETS. CERTAINLY, THERE HAS BEEN NO THAW IN THE GSDR'S COLD WAR AGAINST THE U.S., WHICH IS NOW MANIFESTING ITSELF IN A PRESS AND DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN AGAINST SECRETARY KISSINGER'S INITIATIVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, NONALIGNED NATIONS, POLICIES, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOGADI01481
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760344-0615
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760967/aaaacfhc.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOGADISCIO 1466
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON SIAD'S NON-ALIGNMENT
TAGS: PFOR, SO, UR, BE, (MOHAMED SIAD BARRE), (VERHILLE, EDGARDUS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006